

I appreciate, Mr. Congressman, you and Jo Ann Davis, for leading this prayer breakfast. And thanks for paying tribute to my wife. (Applause)

I appreciate the speaker's presence, Congressman Hoyer's presence, Congressman Blunt's presence. I want to thank all the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives who have joined us. I appreciate the fact that we have governors here, local officials and state officials. I thank the members of my Cabinet for joining us—Don't linger, you've got a job to do. (Laughter)

I thank the military officials who have joined us; distinguished dignitaries. Mr. Prime Minister, we are glad you're here. Thank you for joining us.

I appreciate Dr. Collins. I want to thank Reverend Mucci and his wife Kathy. I appreciate Nicole Mullen. Most of all, thank you all.

We are a nation of prayer. America prays. (Applause)

Each day millions of our citizens bow their heads in silence and solitude, or they offer up prayers in fellowship with others. They pray for themselves, they pray for their families, they pray for their neighbors and their communities. In many congregations and homes across this great land, people also set aside time to pray for our nation and those entrusted with authority, including our elected leaders.

In my travels, I often see hand-printed signs and personal messages from citizens that carry words of prayer. Sometimes it's a single little girl holding up a placard that reads, "Mr. President, be encouraged, you are prayed for." Sometimes it's a banner held by a group of young people that says, "We are praying for you, Mr. President." I often hear similar words when I meet people on a rope line. Isn't that interesting? You're working a rope line and people come up and say, "Mr. President, I am praying for you and your family."

The greatest gift a citizen of this country can give those of us entrusted with political office is to pray for us. And I thank those in our nation who lift all of us up in prayer. (Applause)

Our troops must understand that every day—every day—millions of our citizens lift them up in prayer. (Applause)

We pray for their safety. We pray for their families they have left at home. We pray for those who have been wounded, for their comfort and recovery. We remember those who have been lost, and we pray that their loved ones feel the healing touch of the Almighty. During this time of war, we thank God that we are part of a nation that produces courageous men and women who volunteer to defend us.

Many in our country know the power of prayer. Prayer changes hearts. Prayer changes lives. And prayer makes us a more compassionate and giving people. When we pray, we surrender our will to the Almighty, and open ourselves up to His priorities and His touch. His call to love our neighbors as we would like to be loved ourselves is something that we hear when we pray. And we answer that call by reaching out to feed the hungry and clothe the poor, and aid the widow and the orphan. By helping our brothers and sisters in need, we find our own faith strengthened, and we receive the grace to lead lives of dignity and purpose.

We see this grace in the life of a young American named Shannon Hickey. Shannon was one of Laura's guests at the State of the Union. When Shannon was growing up, her favorite priest was Father Mychal Judge, a chaplain with the New York City Fire Department. Father Mychal helped Shannon and her family through Shannon's struggle with liver disease. On September the 11, 2001,

Father Mychal lost his life in the World Trade Center. In memory of her friend, Shannon founded Mychal's Message, a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing Father Mychal's loving spirit. Over the last five years, Mychal's Message has collected and distributed more than 100,000 needed items to the poor and the homeless. With each gift to the needy, Shannon encloses a card with Father Mychal's personal prayer. It reads, "Lord, take me where You want me to go, let me meet who You want me to meet, tell me what You want me to say, and keep me out of Your way."

Father Mychal's humble prayer reminds us of an eternal truth: In the quiet of prayer, we leave behind our own cares and we take up the cares of the Almighty. And in answering His call to service we find that, in the words of Isaiah, "We will gain new strength. We will run and not get tired. We will walk and not become weary."

And so I thank you for joining us on this day of prayer. I thank you for the tradition you continue here today. And I ask for God's blessings on the United States of America. (Applause)

Rep. Cleaver: Ladies and gentlemen, if you would please remain in your seats while the President and Mrs. Bush leave, and Nicole Mullen will return to the microphone. If all of you would be so kind as to remain in your seats until I tell you to leave. (Laughter)

Ms. Mullen: I wrote a song based on the words of Job, who had gone from hardship and back to goodness again. He simply said, "I know that my redeemer lives."

(Song: Redeemer) (Applause)

Rep. Cleaver: Amen.

Amen. He does live. Thank you so much, Nicole. Thank you for blessing us.

As we prepare to leave this place today, I would remind you that years ago the prophet Isaiah gave us the word of the Lord when he wrote:

"Stop doing wrong, learn to do right. Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. 'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord."

As the light of the world, you pierce the darkness in troubled times, those of you who are leaders both in this country and around the world. Please know that we all struggle against the forces of darkness. The power of sin and alienation is strong, but you are now stronger. Our world needs your healing power and your love.

Today, oh God, I pray for our world leaders. I pray that the power of your love will guide their decisions.

And now, we ask that you go out into the world and make a difference. Amen. (Applause)

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP THORNWELL HENRY

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Phillip Thornwell Henry.

Throughout his life, Phil was dedicated to enriching the lives of those around him. Phil was born in Roanoke County, Virginia and attended Cave Spring High School and subsequently earned a degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in civil engineering. As a civil engineer, Phil sought to improve the quality of life of others and began

his long and illustrious career by working for the Corps of Engineers in West Virginia. After the birth of his two sons, Phil and his young family moved to Martinsville, Virginia where he worked as the City Engineer and Superintendent of Water Resources for 11 years.

In 1984, Phil and his family moved to Boulder City, Nevada where he became the City Engineer. Two years later, Phil moved back to his native Virginia, where he worked as the county engineer in Roanoke before returning to Boulder City in 1991. In 1995, Phil was promoted to Director of Public Works in Boulder City. During his tenure as Director, Phil oversaw many projects, such as the extension of Adams Boulevard, the creation of Memorial Park and Boulder Creek Golf Course and the expansion of the Boulder City Cemetery. In 2005, Phil retired from his life of public service in engineering and moved back to Roanoke. In addition to his numerous professional achievements, Phil was an active member of the community.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Phil Thornwell Henry. He greatly enriched countless lives in both Nevada and Virginia and he will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 10, 2007 I missed roll call votes Nos. 865 and 866. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 257 and "aye" on H. Res. 643.

#### CAMERON ELIZABETH ETHERIDGE MAKES HER MARK ON THE WORLD

#### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my son Brian and his wife Meredith on the birth of their second child, Cameron Elizabeth Etheridge. Cameron was born on my birthday Tuesday, August 7, 2007 and weighed 8 pounds and 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. My wife Faye and I are excited about the birth of our third grandchild, and she joins me in wishing Brian and Meredith and their daughter, Virginia, great happiness upon this new addition to our family.

Faye and I are truly blessed by the arrival of Cameron Elizabeth Etheridge. The birth of a new child is a joyous occasion that reminds us of the promise of a new life. And I know that Virginia is excited to have a sister with whom she can play. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to view the world.

God has truly blessed my family with this new addition. My family and I are looking forward to spending a lot of time with our new bundle of joy and introducing her to all of our friends and neighbors in North Carolina's Second Congressional District.